Making the Distance Education Popular

1641. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact hat Distance Education is getting popular in the country.

(b) whether Government propose to promote distance education in view of its growing popularity;

(c) if so, the efforts made in that direction; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, envisages expansion of Open Learning Systems. During the VIII Plan period, the enrolment in the open|distance education system is expected to increase from 11.5 per cent to 16.5 per cent.

(c) and (d) The first open university in the country was established in Andhra Pradesh in 1982 (Andhra Pradesh Open University, now renamed as Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University). The Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi was estabilshed in 1985 under an Act of Parliament. There are five other open universities which have been established in the folliwing states:

Kota Open Univesrtiy, Rajasthan..1987

Nalanda Open University, Bihar..1987

Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Maharashtra..1989

M. P. Bhoj Open University, M.P.... 1992

Ambadkar Open University, Gujarat-1994

At School level, National Open School has been established in 1989. A distance Education Council as a statutory body has been set up in 1992 for the promotion, coordnaiton and determination of standards. The Indira Gandhi National Open University has also established an Institute, Staff Training and Research Institute in Distance Educaion, for the training of personnel of Distance Education system.

Urdu University

1642. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the deatils of the recommendations made by the Committee with regard to the Setting up of Urdu University and the number of recommendations accepted by the Government; and

(b) When and where this University is likely to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The recommendations made by the Committee on Establishment of Urdu University are given in the statement annexed (See below) The report of the Commitee is under consideration of the Government.

Statement

The Committee on Establishment of Urdu University has submitted its report to the Government. Its major recommendations are the setting up of a new Central Urdu University, completely secular in character and open to all, on the pattern of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) with suitable changes and adaptations, enabling provisions for affiliation of institutions and opening of teachig institutions on a selective basis not withstanding its predominantly distance education character, and greater emphasis to the teaching of Science and Technology and job oriented courses through the medium of Urdu.